

# Conference Agenda



## Monday, November 7

**7:30 – 9:00 Registration**

**9:00 – 10:00 Welcome/Opening Remarks (Celeste Cantu, Executive Director, State Water Resources Control Board; Peter Douglas, Executive Director, California Coastal Commission; Alexis Strauss, Director, Water Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9)**  
*Moderator: Alfred L. Wanger, Deputy Director, Energy, Ocean Resources and Water Quality Division, California Coastal Commission*

**10:00 – 10:15 Break (for room set-up)**

### 10:15 – 11:45 Concurrent Sessions

#### Session A

##### Assessing and Evaluating Project Success

*Moderator: Sam Ziegler, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9*

- Are We There Yet? A 25-year Journey of Restoration and Monitoring in the Redwood Creek Watershed; *Darci Short, Redwood National and State Parks*
- Monitoring the Effectiveness of Nonpoint Source Management Practices and Watershed Restoration in the Lahontan Region of California; *Thomas Suk, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board*
- Assessment of the Restoration Activities on Water Balance and Water Quality at Last Chance Creek Watershed Using Watershed Environmental Hydrology (WEHY) Model; *Levent Kavvas, University of California, Davis*

#### Session B

##### Partnerships of State, Federal, and Local Agencies

*Moderator: Lisa Sniderman, California Coastal Commission*

- Regulatory Coordination to Facilitate Reduction of Nonpoint Source Pollution in California; *Nicole Martin, Sustainable Conservation*
- Strengthening Local Sierra Nevada Efforts to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution; *Megan Suarez-Brand, Sierra Nevada Alliance*
- The “Keep the Delta Clean. You Play in it, You Drink it Too” Program; *Tonya Redfield, Contra Costa County Public Works Department*

**11:45 – 12:00 Break (for room set-up)**

**12:00 – 1:15 Lunch**

**Presentation: The Pacific Northwest and California – An Alternative Futures Perspective on Salmon Recovery**  
*Keynote Speaker: Dr. Sally Duncan, Oregon State University/U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

**1:15 – 1:30 Break (for room set-up)**

### 1:30 – 3:00 Concurrent Sessions

#### Session A

##### Farmers Improving Water Quality

*Moderator: Daniel Merkley, State Water Resources Control Board*

- Imperial County Farm Bureau’s Voluntary TMDL Compliance Program: Farmers Working to Reduce Silt Leaving Their Fields; *Shiela Ault, Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board*
- Fish Friendly Farming Environmental Certification Program: Mendocino, Sonoma, Napa and Solano Counties; *Laurel Marcus, California Land Stewardship Institute*
- Farmers and Fishes Partner in AQWA by Agriculture Water Quality Alliance; *Bridget Dobrowski, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary*

#### Session B

##### Community Group Involvement

*Moderator: A.L. Riley, San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board*

- Codornices Creek Watershed Restoration Action Plan (CCWRAP) – Phase II; *Emma Gutzler, Urban Creeks Council*
- California Fire Ecosystems and Water Quality; *Otis Wollan, American River Watershed Institute*
- Citizen Monitoring and Water Quality in the Santa Ana River Watershed; *Ray Hiemstra, Orange County Coastkeeper*

**3:00 – 3:30 Break**

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## 3:30 – 5:00 Concurrent Sessions

### Session A

#### **TMDL Implementation: Restoring Impaired Waterbodies**

*Moderator: Dave Hope, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board*

- South Fork Trinity River Watershed Restoration – Implementing Strategic Sediment Reduction; *Cynthia Tarwater, Trinity County Resource Conservation District*
- Basin-wide Sediment Reduction within a Mixed-Ownership Basin: Implementation and Monitoring Approaches in the Mattole River Watershed; *Chris Larson, Mattole Restoration Council*
- Consideration of the Performance of BMPs in the Development of TMDLs for Lake Tahoe; *Dr. John Reuter, University of California, Davis, Tahoe Research Group*

### Session B

#### **Urban Development**

*Moderator: Tracy Duffey, California Coastal Commission*

- Watershed Management Facilitator – LID Handbook; *Chris Conway, Kennedy/Jenks Consultants*
- Measuring Water Quality Benefits of Infiltrating Urban Runoff; *Suzanne Dallman, Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council*
- Urbanization, Water Quality, and Local Watershed Management: An Integrated Approach; *Mike Zanolli, California Department of Water Resources*

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## 5:00 – 7:30 Reception/Poster Session in the Grand Nave Foyer (Refreshments provided)

This is an opportunity to network with your peers. Check out the poster session!

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# Conference Agenda



Tuesday, November 8

## 8:30 – 10:00 Concurrent Sessions

### Session A

#### Water Quality Assessment and Monitoring

*Moderator: Emilie Reyes, State Water Resources Control Board*

- Water Quality in the Yolo Bypass; *Armand Ruby, Armand Ruby Consulting*
- Coastal Watershed Assessment: A Template for Assessing Water Quality Conditions at the Watershed Level; *Anitra L. Pawley, University of California, Davis, Sea Grant Extension*
- Agricultural Water Quality in the Central Coast: A New Approach to Monitoring and Implementation Tracking; *Karen Worcester, Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board*

### Session B

#### Public Participation

*Moderator: Erick Burres, State Water Resources Control Board*

- The Central Modoc River Center; *Abbey Kingdon, The River Center*
- Watershed Stewardship: GPS Habitat and Bioassessment Surveys; *Aspen Madrone, Contra Costa County Community Development Department*
- Our Land. Our River. Our Way of Life; *Sharon Weaver, San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, Inc.*

## 10:00 – 10:30 Break

## 10:30 – 12:00 Concurrent Sessions

### Session A

#### Vegetated Treatment Systems

*Moderator: Amanda Bern, Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board*

- Conversion of Agricultural Drainage Ditches into Treatment Wetlands; *Bryan Largay, Resource Conservation District of Monterey County*
- The San Diego Creek Natural Treatment System Master Plan – A Case Study of a Regional BMP Approach to Water Quality Management; *Norris Brandt, Irvine Ranch Water District*
- Benefits of Vegetated Agricultural Drainage Ditches (VADD) as a Best Management Practice in Yolo County, California; *Debra Denton, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9*

### Session B

#### Developing and Implementing Watershed Plans

*Moderator: Raymond Jay, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board*

- The Lower Tuolumne River Framework for the Future: An Integrated Plan; *Patrick Koepele, Tuolumne River Trust*
- Watershed Planning and Best Management Practices in the Arroyo Seco; *Jason Pelletier, North East Trees*
- Evaluating Limiting Factors for Salmonids in Lagunitas Creek; *Nancy Scolari, Marin Resource Conservation District*

## 12:00 – 12:15 Break (for room set-up)

## 12:15 – 1:15 Lunch

## 1:15 – 1:30 Break (for room set-up)

## 1:30 – 3:00 Concurrent Sessions

### Session A

#### Agricultural Management Practices

*Moderator: Margie Lopez Read, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board*

- Williams Ranch Tailwater Collection Pond; *Michael Harris, Western Shasta Resource Conservation District*
- Irrigation Management Measures to Improve the Quality of Surface Runoff Water; *Khaled Bali, University of California Desert Research and Extension Center*
- Measuring Suspended Sediment Loads in the Napa River Watershed; *Bob Zlomke, Napa County Resource Conservation District*

### Session B

#### Bioassessment

*Moderator: Lori Webber, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board*

- Napa River Benthic Macro Invertebrate Study Project; *Dr. Charley Dewberry, Friends of the Napa River*
- Use of GIS Techniques to Investigate the Relationship Between Various NPS Stressors and the Condition of Stream Invertebrate Assemblages; *Peter Ode, California Department of Fish and Game*
- Monitoring Benthic Macroinvertebrates at Several Putah Creek Restoration Sites; *Ken Davis, Wildlife Survey and Photo*

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**3:00 – 3:30      Break**

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**3:30 – 5:00      Closing Panel: Measuring Water Quality Improvements – How Are We Doing? (Daniel Mountjoy, Natural Resource Conservation Service; Darrin Polhemus, State Water Resources Control Board; Sari Sommarstrom, Scott River Watershed Council; Eric Stein, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project)**

Panel members will base closing comments on conference presentations and engage the audience in answering the following questions.

- What are projects achieving in terms of measuring water quality improvements?
  - What are the keys to successes and barriers in implementing NPS pollution controls and measuring associated improvements?
  - What suggestions do you have for others that want to measure water quality improvements? What worked and what didn't? Why?
  - What suggestions do you have to improve the effectiveness of NPS projects and programs?
  - How can California's NPS program better help support monitoring and the achievement of water quality results?
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# Conference Agenda



Wednesday, November 9

8:00 – 4:30 Concurrent Workshops and Field Trips

## Workshops – Full Day

- **Monitoring Design Workshop**

*Presenter: Val Conner, State Water Resources Control Board*

This workshop will focus on monitoring design and data quality concepts, and will identify available resources and tools. It will provide technical leaders and data users interested in environmental monitoring with a better understanding of key concepts in monitoring design, the planning documents required for grants, and the relationships between them. Further, it will provide access to tools and resources to help collect scientifically defensible monitoring data.

- **Performance Measurement Design Workshop**

*Presenter: Rainer Hoenicke, San Francisco Estuary Institute*

This workshop will provide practical guidance for project design and evaluation for grant projects, planning, and implementation based on results and outcomes rather than grant products and deliverables. Participants will learn how to improve projects and ensure that future decisions achieve environmental results. Special emphasis will be placed on developing the Performance Assessment and Evaluation Plans now required of all grant recipients by the State Water Resources Control Board.

## Field Trips – Full Day

- **Cache Creek**

*Leader: Dimitrios Gregorio, Yolo County Public Works*  
*Assistant: Pattie Gouveia, State Water Resources Control Board*

This field trip will give participants an overview of the rich and varied history of Cache Creek in Yolo County. Cache Creek has provided recreation, irrigation for farmland, a home for wildlife, flood control and has been a source of aggregate for gravel mining. In the last 20 years, it has experienced an alarming spread of non-native invasive weeds. Participants will observe the efforts of local stakeholders to preserve Cache Creek and protect water quality. Highlights include the following:

- One farmer's attempt to control invasive weeds by growing and demonstrating the uses of native grasses for habitat restoration and sustainable farming
- Restoration of a former gravel mining site
- Various bank stabilization efforts and watershed enhancement projects
- A lunchtime visit to the Cache Creek Conservancy where participants will learn the history of Cache Creek and the Conservancy's efforts to preserve it.

- **Mokelumne River**

*Leader: John Brodie, Mokelumne River Watershed Coordinator, San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District*  
*Assistant: Lori Webber, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board*

This field trip will give participants an overview of the Mokelumne River Watershed with a look at completed and ongoing projects that enhance overall riparian habitat and water quality. Highlights include the following:

- Efforts of watershed partners to improve fish passage for salmon and steelhead, to eliminate invasive species, and to control erosion
- A tour of three sites on the Mokelumne River demonstrating the plan to increase habitat quality and connectivity with the widening of corridors and the creation of agricultural buffers
- A lunchtime presentation at Lodi Lake Park on the Mokelumne River
- A stop at the Lodi-Woodbridge Winegrape Commission to learn about how winegrape growers are assessing sustainability in their farming operations; wine tasting follows